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IV. THE INDIANAPOLIS MARKET

BY ANNIS BURK,

Secretary to the Mayor of Indianapolis, Ind.

The impression prevails in many places throughout the country that the Indianapolis Market is the outgrowth of Mayor Shank's efforts to reduce the high cost of living and that the city is engaged in the buying and selling of food products. While it is true that the mayor purchased great quantities of potatoes and other food products and sold them to the poor at prices lower than those demanded by regular dealers, he is not engaged in this business regularly and in no way has the city recognized his efforts as a municipal undertaking. In fact the market is as old as the city itself. There is only one in Indianapolis and consequently it is one of the largest in the country. On an average, eight hundred dealers and producers transact business there on market day.

The market is both wholesale and retail. Much of it is under roof but many producers occupy space along the curbs of adjacent streets. The charges for stands vary and are based on the size of the stalls, averaging from \$30 to \$125 per year for those inside and from \$20 to \$30 per year for desirable locations outside of the buildings. All of the expense of operating the market is paid by the city and the net profit averages from \$15,000 to \$20,000 a year. It is operated under a city ordinance, is under the supervision of the department of public safety and in direct charge of a market master and his assistants, appointed by the department. It formerly was the custom for the market master to issue bulletins but this practice has been discontinued.

Both retailers and producers have stands on the market but preference is given the latter. Every inducement is offered the producer in the way of cheaper rents and choice location. The market is open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays and is visited by all classes of citizens. Everything in the edible line is on sale and prices generally are a shade lower than those asked at grocery stores.